

Proposed Resolution on Chemical Dependency

We believe chemical dependency is an illness which is primary, progressive and chronic. It can be fatal.

We believe there to be no known cure for chemical dependency, but that it is treatable and recovery is possible.

Of all the agencies and organizations involved in society's misnamed "war on drugs," the church has the most significant role and the greatest opportunity to make a difference.

The use of alcohol and other drugs points to an inescapable spiritual dimension in persons' lives. Prevention, treatment and recovery efforts from destructive dependency must enter this dimension of human experience, if such efforts are to be effective.

The church's unique role is that of a catalyst, a motivator to stimulate and to challenge caring persons to examine society's critical issues from a spiritual, as opposed to moralistic, perspective.

The church is the one body in our society whose purpose is to help people deal with their spiritual needs, their needs to find welcome and acceptance, to find wholeness, self-worth, reconciliation and guidance for right living.

Everywhere and always, the church works to support the values that undergrid human community. Clergy and laity define the unique role of the church by their faithful action to revive hope in the arenas of community and personal life. Who they are makes the difference in what they do. What they do testifies to Whose they are.

We, as the Gulf Lower Atlantic District, should bring together a collective knowledge of positive church and community responses to drug-related issues; and offer ideas, principles, experience and guidance to assist those who strive to reduce, and prevent the personal and social cost of, destructive drug dependency.

We, as a District, should provide encouragement to church leaders to understand more fully that alcoholism or any other drug addiction is more than just harmful involvement with a chemical. We believe the work of the church is to recognize the many nonchemical, nonphysical characteristics or symptoms of addiction and recovery from addiction.

WE encourage our leaders to identify the spiritual aspects of dependency. One of the greatest contributions the church can make toward the reduction and prevention of harmful drug dependency is to broaden our education and awareness.



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We believe more than "drug wars" is needed. The nation will never solve the drug problem by trying to eliminate drugs, nor by treating drug abusers as if they were criminals or moral outcasts. The task of the church is to help society make the changes that enable persons to have life and to have it more abundantly.

The church as an institution must support the values that undergrid human community. The church is the firm base from which the clergy and laity alike move into the troubled arenas of community life in a positive and redemptive manner. Persons of faith cannot overlook the spiritual renewal that their involvement in their community offers.

The church should provide content and a context for one's encounter with God. It offers food for the journey. In dealing with problems of drug abuse and chemical dependency we are dealing with basic problems of philosophy, faith and theology.

WE SHOULD ASSESS OURSELVES AND OUR COMMUNITY.

WE SHOULD BECOME AWARE OF OUR NEEDS, THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY, AND THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

WE SHOULD ACT AS FAITHFUL DISCIPLES OUT OF ATTENTIVE CONCERN.

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been active in the work of the American Friends Service Committee in the United States since the beginning of the year 1944. The list is not intended to be a complete one, but it is hoped that it will give some idea of the scope of the work.

The names are arranged in alphabetical order. The names of the persons who have been active in the work of the American Friends Service Committee in the United States since the beginning of the year 1944 are listed in the following order: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

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